

# The Farmington Times

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## UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE

The many critical situations in the Government's foreign relations, forced upon it by the European war and the questions of international law affecting neutrals, has dissipated in large measure our dream of national isolation, and emphasized as nothing else probably could the necessity of thorough preparedness to meet any emergency that might arise. Than the United States, there is no nation in the world freer of the spirit of aggressive territorial expansion—the inherited ambition of all hereditarily ruled nations. The desire of the United States for universal or world peace, the settlement of all contentions between nations by international courts of arbitration instead of recourse to arms, has manifested itself through the expressions of many of our ablest minds—writers, speakers and statesmen—and their efforts to effect some concert of the other strong and influential powers. The seed thus sown has borne some fruit of thought and sentiment, but this has had little effect in bringing about any apparent practical results or promise of results—for a long time to come at least.

With few exceptions, the nations of the world are the products of hereditary rulers, who have been schooled to the belief that they have an inherited divine right to govern mankind, and the shrewd ambitious men of natural statecraft and military genius that they gathered about them to strengthen their claim. Aggression, extension of power, is and ever has been with them a ruling passion; and until there is a world reformation of this condition—the acceptance of the principle that all just government derives its powers from the consent of the governed—no nation may so isolate itself as to be independent of a substantial means of defense as well as the force to assert and maintain its rights, commercial or otherwise.

The suggestion of disarmament as a means of maintaining peace is the dream of an idealist. It must first have the consent and concert of all the conflicting world opinions and established traditions on the subject, as well as an organized international court of arbitration for the settlement of differences that may arise between nations. Under such conditions, however effective disarmament might prove, the dream is too evanescent, too impractical, to be thought of at this time. The idea that the United States, as a great moral force, a peace-loving and independent people, should set the world a high example along this line, as suggested by a few earnest but impractical minds, is not to be thought of—the risk would be dangerous in the extreme. To fortify ourselves behind a substantial coast and land defense does not imply that we love peace less or that we are aggressively inclined. It would be much better for the world if all men were scrupulously honest, yet we know all men are not, and so society enacts laws to protect itself against dishonest acts, placing behind them penalties and the power to enforce. Even then we do not neglect to bar our doors and place all valuables behind well guarded locks. Who would say that this promotes dishonesty? It is only a wise provision of society preparedness.

And so with our nation. We are for peace; we discourage any spirit of aggressive territorial expansion or infringement of the rights of other nations; we abhor war. Yet we cannot afford to have our territory exploited, our rights as a nation disputed or unjustly assailed, though we may be disposed to show great patience in the face of insolence and injustice. So, we hold that it is necessary for our government to fortify itself with an adequate means of defense and of enforcing our rights as a people of peaceful pursuits. That we have not been prepared to do so, the situations which the European war has forced upon us and our present all but warlike relations with one of the belligerents, is brought painfully home to us. This is fortunate, perhaps, as it has also awakened us to a realization of our nation's weakness and started the movement for a better national armament and the necessity for a thoroughly organized, equipped and trained citizen soldiery, that may be mobilized and placed in prime fighting trim within the shortest possible time. Our small standing army of regulars and our amateurish State guards organizations, even in a little border disturbance on our

southwestern frontier, show how inadequately prepared we are to meet an emergency of slight proportions.

Then why should there be any opposition to a national system of universal military training for both army and navy? Every citizen owes his service to his country when needed, and in certain conditions he may be drafted. How much better, when he is called out, that he should have the military training and discipline that would make him an effective soldier instead of one of the "awkward squad." A volunteer army is the best in the world, perhaps—after it has been disciplined, trained, hardened, and knows how; but that requires time—time in which our country might be overrun with the enemy and largely despoiled. Universal military training, such as is contemplated by measures now being considered by Congress, would prove a splendid experience to every young American, would in no essential interfere with his peaceful calling and success in life, and would make of him a sure rock of defense in time of emergency and need—the only time he would be called upon to serve his country in that capacity.

## "THE POOR MAN'S BUTTER"

A Democratic caucus of the United States Senate last week approved a proposition to reduce the government tax on oleomargarine from 10 cents to 2 cents a pound. The tax was originally placed on the manufacture of oleomargarine more as a penalty than a necessary revenue measure, and to protect butter from this cheaper competitive article. The coloring of oleomargarine, as all creamery butter is artificially colored, was also prohibited, that it might not look so attractive or so much like creamery butter. This was straining at a gnat, for if it is wrong to color oleomargarine to make it look more appetizing, it is also wrong to color butter for the same purpose. All that is necessary is to require that each be labeled true to name, so that people may know what they are buying, and those who prefer oleomargarine at a low price to butter at a higher price could have their choice.

Oleomargarine is said by food experts to be a good, nourishing food, and it is as palatable to some tastes as butter, if indeed one can tell the difference. Under our pure food laws and government inspection its wholesomeness is as fully guaranteed as any food product, and is a most acceptable substitute for butter—indeed is preferred to some grades of butter. In these days of high cost of living, with creamery butter selling at 48 and 50 cents a pound, oleomargarine is gladly accepted by those who are not able to pay the higher price for butter. Why should they be penalized ten or even two cents a pound for the privilege of using it. The tax is no protection to farm housewives who make and sell butter. They usually have their regular customers and sell their product below the price of creamery butter, while large dairies practically dispose of all their cream or butterfat to the creamery butter manufacturers. The penalizing tax of 10 cents a pound ought to be taken off of oleomargarine and thus lessen to that extent its cost to the consumer.

## THOMAS MABREY DEAD

Hon. Thomas Mabrey, one of Southwest Missouri's most conspicuous and best known public men, died at his home in Doniphan, Ripley county, on the 12th inst., in the 82d year of his age. He was one of the pioneers and history makers of this section of the State. In July, 1861, he enlisted in the six-months' call for State Guards by Governor Claib Jackson under General Jeff Thompson, and later entered the Confederate army in Col. White's regiment, with which he served until the close of the Civil War.

After the war, Mr. Mabrey practiced law, and in 1868 was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Ripley county. In 1878 he was elected to represent his county in the Missouri House of Representatives, and afterwards represented his senatorial district in the State Senate. He was prominent in both branches of the General Assembly and made his influence felt in legislation.

Mr. Mabrey's wife was a sister of the late Judge William Carter and of Francis M. Carter of Farmington.

## THE GOVERNOR "ON THE JOB"

Rumors, more or less defined, have been current ever since the organization of the present session of the General Assembly of the State, that there was an undercurrent of opposition to Governor Gardner's revenue reform measures. The Governor has been disposed to adopt a policy of watchful waiting to see what the Legislature purposed doing with his measures, rather than presuming to exert an active administrative or personal influence upon its deliberations in pushing them to a successful conclusion. But the constitutional limitation of the legislative session has more than half run its length without any definite progress having been made, and rumors of opposition here and there persist in making themselves heard.

The Governor sees in this something of a menace to his administrative policy, and early last week announced his intention to take a more active and aggressive position. He has given up his purpose to attend the Presidential inauguration with his staff and has cancelled his acceptance of the invitation of the Missouri Society at Washington to be its guest of honor on that occasion. He says: "I have determined to stay here on the job, night and day, until the Legislature adjourns. It is apparent, therefore, that I must lay aside all other matters, including appointments."

The Governor says: "I cannot but feel that the measures which I have recommended to the Legislature are of such vital importance to all of our people that it is my duty to strain all my energies to see them enacted into laws. The session is now about half over, and I am willing to risk my reputation as a prophet that these measures will become law."

### "1. Prison reform.

"2. Good roads, providing for the construction of 3500 miles of surface roads.

"3. Revenue measures sufficient to pay off the State's debts and adequately maintain our institutions.

### "4. A State Tax Commission.

"These embody practically everything I recommended in my inaugural address. When these recommendations are enacted into law the Forty-ninth General Assembly will be known as the greatest in the State's history.

"As to whether my administration is to be a huge success or a flat failure the next 40 days will determine. Our necessities are so clear to me that I shall consider myself a poor executive if I fail to impress them upon a Legislature which I believe is bent upon doing its full duty to the people as it understands it.

"If Missouri is to win in this intense and fierce race for industrial, commercial and social supremacy in which she is now engaged with her sister Commonwealths, we must begin by 'preparedness' and organization at home. The four great reforms I have outlined are, therefore, imperative and essential. When this work is done we will have cleared the decks and will be ready."

## AN OPEN FIELD

Congressman Walter L. Hensley of this district has taken time by the forelock and cleared the political deck for all who may have a congressional bee buzzing around in their bonnets, by a prepared announcement given out on the 15th inst., that he renounces all intention of being a candidate to the succession in 1918. Mr. Hensley's statement may be found on another page of this number of The Times and speaks for itself.

Such an announcement, so far in advance of the campaign and before he had entered upon the term to which he was elected last November, is somewhat unusual. But we suppose Mr. Hensley wanted to give aspirants plenty of time to study the situation, hoist their lightning rods and be ready for the first flash out of the political skies. At this distance hazily may be seen the names of Clyde Williams of Jefferson county, Judge Elbridge M. Dearing of Washington, State Senator Carter Buford of Reynolds, O. L. Munger of Wayne, Judge R. A. Anthony of Madison, Farmer Sam McMinn of Bollinger, Attorney S. J. Stanton of St. Genevieve, Prosecuting Attorney William R. Edgar, Jr., of Iron, T. B. Hood of Perry, and St. Francois—Who?

Since our break with Germany, and the slender thread upon which peace rests may be snapped any day, aliens all over the country have begun a hurry-up rush to become American citizens. About 600 applications for first citizenship papers were made in St. Louis last week, and in other large cities a similar manifestation is reported. Most of them are said to be subjects of the Central Powers—Germany and her allies—many of whom have been in America a number of years, but have never severed their allegiance to their mother country. Whether this means that they have determined to be loyal to their adopted country and its institutions in the

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event of actual hostilities between the United States and Germany, or whether it is more particularly to fortify themselves against certain inconveniences that they might experience as aliens, is not altogether clear in every case.

Germany, it seems, would like to reopen diplomatic parleying with the United States over her submarine plan of warfare, but wants to go right along sinking merchant ships of both the belligerents and neutrals without warning or search while the parleying is going on. But as that is just why President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, he doesn't purpose, if we understand his position, to renew those relations until Germany abandons her peculiar style of submarine war and gives better assurance than she has ever heretofore given that she will respect and keep her pledges, which she is too much disposed to regard as "mere scraps of paper," to be torn to pieces at any time by her mailed fists.

Phil A. Hafner, the versatile and irrepressible socialist editor of the Scott County Kicker, announces the temporary suspension of his paper on account of sickness. He says: "It is with much regret that I announce the suspension of the Kicker for an indefinite time. I am a very sick man and cannot go on." Arrangements have been made with the Cape Girardeau Tribune to supply his subscribers "until he is able to take hold again," which we hope may be soon. We are not always able to agree with Phil's reasoning, but he never fails to make it interesting.

## GEN. FUNSTON DROPS DEAD IN TEXAS HOTEL

San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 19.—Gen. Frederick Funston, Commander of the Southern Department of the United States Army since February, 1915, died suddenly at a hotel here tonight, a few minutes after he had finished dinner. He collapsed while seated in the lobby of the hotel, talking with friends, and was playing with a little girl, a guest of the hotel, when he fell unconscious. Death was almost instantaneous. Gen. Funston was 51 years old.

Ever since March, 1916, when he was placed in command of all United States forces on the Mexican border, Gen. Funston had worked at an unusual pace. At critical times in border developments he frequently remained on duty 24 hours of the 24.

Handling of regulars, disposed of at various stations on the border, the Pershing expedition and of late rearrangements of regular troops, while providing for the return of National Guardsmen have entailed an enormous amount of detail work, probably exceeding that which fell to any commanding general of the United States Army since the Civil War.

Only today Gen. Funston completed orders for the return of the last of the guardsmen. Because of the amount of work which has fallen on him, Gen. Funston's only recreation or relaxation for nearly a year has been an occasional dinner party with a few friends.

Auto speeders in Farmington would do well to remember that they are on dangerous grounds. The law is liable to "get them" if they exceed the speed limit, and then their joy riding will prove to be a very expensive pastime for them. They should remember that others have some rights on the public highways, which they will be forced to respect.

## LETTER FROM STATE CAPITAL

By G. W. Moothart, Representative.

February 20, 1917.

At the very beginning, permit me to say that after a conference with our Governor, I suggest to all applicants for positions that the Governor is supposed to be interviewed about, that said applicants, if convenient, should come to Jefferson City within the next ten days, and I shall be pleased to introduce them to the Governor, with such endorsements as are appropos to the occasion. A number of the applicants for positions have written to me, and I assume that this notice will serve sufficiently for them without a personal letter, as I understand all of the county papers will publish this.

Last Wednesday, the House sent to engrossment the Administration bill, known as the Prison or Penal Institution. The prime feature of this measure is to do away with the contract system, appointing a board of three prison commissioners with a superintendent of industries, and as soon as practicable, the board shall either lease or purchase sufficient tracts of land to work part of the prisoners, while others are to be employed in the manufacture of various articles, the profit going to the State, with the understanding that the prisoners themselves will be allowed a certain amount per diem.

Recent other bills passed by the House are the Collateral Inheritance Tax; one placing a specific tax on dogs; another placing a certain bounty on chicken hawks, wolves and certain other animals.

Just here your representative wishes to say that he was in favor of an amendment to one of those bills so that the tax derived from the dog license should go into a fund to pay for sheep killed by dogs. After a discussion of this matter, it was finally decided that such a specific designation would be unconstitutional. I make mention of this fact because some of my constituents requested me to not only vote for a tax on dogs, but see that the sheep owners would be rewarded in this manner. I regret that I have not been able to carry out their wishes for the reason just given.

To all railroad employees I wish to say that the eight hour labor bill introduced by me, by request, has not been favorably reported by the committee on labor. Valid, and probably sufficient reasons have been given to me for said action, which I do not deem necessary to discuss at this time.

I am pleased to say to my constituents that I do appreciate the many letters, petitions and telegrams that are coming to me almost daily now, and expressing a manifested interest in some one or more of the many laws before the House for consideration. As I said before, I am very glad to have these matters emphasized, and at once give said bills a more careful consideration than probably I otherwise would have done.

It is necessary, however, to again repeat that I cannot please by my vote and support both sides of all these measures. I must sometimes take unto myself the responsibility of casting my vote for or against said measures with the hope of legislating for the masses, instead of the classes, and yet at the same time trying to render justice to the classes as best I can.

Some of my people are at this late date asking me to introduce certain bills to meet imperative needs. I would have gladly favored these good citizens had those requests come to me earlier, but I am informed by our leaders, that bills now introduced have no hope whatever of even coming before the House in time for engrossment. Nearly 1000 bills have already been introduced in the House. Out of this number it is predicted that not more than 200 will be passed and many of these will probably languish or be killed in the Senate.

Will Overall was a St. Louis visitor this week.

## PROBES GRAIN BLOCKADE AND HIGH COST OF FOOD

Boston, Mass., Feb. 19.—United States District Attorney George W. Anderson, who is in charge of a nation-wide inquiry into the high prices of food and other necessities, announced today that he would order a special investigation into the grain situation at Chicago and other Middle Western cities to determine whether conspiracies existed to raise the price and delay shipments to Eastern markets.

Representatives of the freight departments of the Boston & Maine, Boston & Alabama and New York, New Haven & Hartford railroads, with whom he conferred on the food, coal and grain situation, informed him that there were no delays in shipments through New England territory.

The high price of potatoes, beans and onions also is under investigation by special agents of the Department of Justice, Mr. Anderson said.

## MILLIONAIRE CABINET MOBILIZE FOOD RESOURCES

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 19.—If the United States is forced into war, the food resources of the country will be mobilized immediately by a committee of 20 millionaire experts.

Julius Rosenwald, himself a multi-millionaire and a member of the National Council for Defense, sent requests today to the heads of 20 of the nation's greatest industries to join him in forming the "millionaire cabinet" for food mobilization. At the recent meeting of the council in Washington the task of providing food and uniforms for an army of 1,000,000 men and a naval force of 100,000 was assigned to Mr. Rosenwald, should emergency arise.

"In order to accomplish this task," said Mr. Rosenwald, "I will need the aid of the biggest men in various industries. I believe everyone of the 20 whom I have called upon will help. To make certain that an army of 1,000,000 and our navy will be properly fed and clothed and that our vast civilian population shall not suffer, it will be necessary to mobilize the entire food supply of the nation. This will be done under the direction of the cabinet which I am forming."

## TEN MILLIONS, THE MARK SET FOR JEWISH RELIEF FUND

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 19.—Jacob Billikopf, welfare and sociological worker of this city, left today for New York to serve as the campaign executive of the American Jewish Relief Committee, in its effort to raise a \$10,000,000 relief fund for Jewish war sufferers. The assembling of the fund will be under the direct guidance of Mr. Billikopf, who has been assured the best aid of the country in the work.

Mr. Billikopf is a native of Russia and is acutely aware of conditions among his people in war-torn Poland and Galicia. He was appointed last summer on the committee to distribute aid among the destitute in Poland, but the members of the committee were unable to leave this country through inability to get their passports issued.

The campaign for raising the fund will be nation-wide. Branches of the American Jewish Relief Committee now are in active operation in every large American city.

## HANA-STEWART

John H. Hana of LaPort, Ind., and Miss Cora E. Stewart of near Farmington were united in marriage in Farmington on Saturday, Feb. 17th, by Justice Wm. Good. The groom is formerly of Farmington and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hana. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Stewart. The newly-weds will make their home in LaPort. Their friends extend congratulations and best wishes.